

**REMARKS**

Corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 1 - 2, 5, 8, 15, 17, 19 - 20, 22 - 23, 33 - 34, 37, 40, 47, 49, 51 - 52, 54 - 55, 64 - 65, 67, 71, 73, 75 - 76, 82 - 83, 85, and 90 - 91 have been amended. Claims 3 - 4, 6 - 7, 14, 18, 35 - 36, 38 - 39, 46, 50, 66, 70, 74, 84, and 88 - 89 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. (Claims 25 - 32, 57 - 63, and 77 - 81 were previously cancelled.) No new matter has been introduced with the corrections or amendments, which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1 - 2, 5, 8 - 13, 15 - 17, 19 - 24, 33 - 34, 37, 40 - 45, 47 - 49, 51 - 56, 64 - 65, 67 - 69, 71 - 73, 75 - 76, 82 - 83, 85 - 87, and 90 - 91 remain in the application.

**I. Drawing Correction**

As stated above in "Amendments to the Drawings", a proposed replacement drawing is submitted herewith for Fig. 6, in which a duplicated (and unreferenced) reference number 631 has been removed from the lower left side of the figure. No new matter is introduced in this proposed replacement drawing.

**II. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §102(e)**

Paragraph 1 of the Office Action dated May 6, 2004 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 - 2, 11 - 17, 33 - 34, 42 - 49, 64, 68 - 73, 82, and 86 - 88 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 6,614,768 to Mahany. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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Applicant's independent Claims 1, 33, 64, and 82 have been amended herein to specify that the extension points ("EPs") each have "a directional antenna and an omnidirectional antenna". These claims further specify that the EP communicates with an access point ("AP") via the directional antenna of the EP, and with at least end device via the omnidirectional antenna of the EP. Mahany does not teach use of two different types of antenna (as has been admitted on Page 7, lines 6 - 7 of the Office Action), and in particular, does not teach use of any device which has "a directional antenna and an omnidirectional antenna, each of the antennas adapted for short-range wireless connections". Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Mahany fails to render these independent claims unpatentable. Furthermore, none of the subsequently-cited patents to Westbrook, Perez, nor Gaucher teaches a device which communicates using both of these antennas. (Notably, while the cited text from Westbrook discusses use of two antennas, it specifies that one antenna is used "for the transmit direction" and a different antenna is used "for the receive direction"; col. 9, lines 26 - 28. This is distinct from Applicant's claim language.)

Applicant also notes that the Office Action cites col. 14, line 12 - col. 16, line 20 of Mahany as teaching limitations of his dependent Claims 2, 11, 13, 34, 43, 45, 69, and 87. These claims specify limitations pertaining to use of the Bluetooth protocol. Applicant finds no references to Bluetooth in the Mahany patent, and thus respectfully submits that Mahany does not anticipate his Claims 2, 11, 13, 34, 43, 45, 69, and 87.

For the remaining dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are patentable over Mahany at least by virtue of the allowability of the independent claims from which

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they depend.

The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection.

III. Rejection Under 35 U. S. C. §103(a)

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action states that Claims 3 - 8, 34 - 40, 65 - 67, and 83 - 85 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahany in view of U. S. Patent 6,525,855 to Westbrook. Paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that Claim 9 (and Claim 41; see Page 8 of the Office Action) is rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahany in view of U. S. Patent 6,542,791 to Perez. Paragraph 3 further states that Claims 18 - 19, 22, 50 - 51, 54, 74, and 89 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mahany and Westbrook in view of U. S. Patent 6,175,860 to Gaucher. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action cites Westbrook as teaching limitations of Applicant's dependent Claims 3 - 8 (and 34 - 40, 65 - 67, and 83 - 85). Claim 3 has been cancelled from the application, and limitations from Claim 3 have been merged into Claim 1. As noted above, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited text from Westbrook, while discussing two antennas, is distinct from the language of Applicant's independent claims. In particular, the cited text from Westbrook explicitly states that the two antennas are used separately for communications in receive vs. transmit directions. Applicant's independent claims, on the other hand, specify an EP communicating with an AP using one of the antenna, and with an end user device (or devices) using

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the other antenna. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that Westbrook is irrelevant to his claimed invention, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 9 and 41, Applicant notes that the cited text from Perez pertains to monitoring how much photovoltaic output is produced at one or more power plants. (See col. 6, lines 28 - 29, stating that the "input [to the controller] consists of, for example, real-time output of the photovoltaic power plant 40 ..."). This is irrelevant to "power[ing an EP] using a photovoltaic array or photovoltaic module", as in Applicant's dependent Claims 9 and 41, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 18 - 19, 22, 50 - 51, 54, 74, and 89, Applicant notes that the Office Action fails to cite any text from the references when discussing limitations of now-cancelled Claims 18, 50, 74, and 89. Therefore, limitations from these now-cancelled claims (which are now incorporated in spirit into the independent claims) are not deemed unpatentable over the references. When discussing claim language of Claims 19 and 22, the Office Action cites col. 9, lines 9 - 36 of Gaucher. However, Claim 19 (and also Claim 51) pertains to "a position of the directional antenna", and the cited text from Gaucher fails to discuss the antenna position. Applicant also disputes the interpretation of Gaucher with regard to his Claims 22 and 54. Gaucher teaches controlling power "[b]ased on a combination of these two", namely "1) the ability of the master to measure the signal level of a remote device ... and 2) the ability to measure the quality of the signal as measured in error packets ...". See col. 9, lines 25 - 26 and lines 21 - 24, respectively. This is distinct from setting power of transmission "to a minimum value required to communicate

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on the wireless connection", as in Applicant's claims 22 and 54. These dependent claims are therefore deemed patentable over the references.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the §103 rejections.

IV. Allowable Subject Matter

Page 9 of the Office Action states that Claims 20 - 21, 23 - 24, 52 - 53, 55 - 56, 75 - 76, and 90 - 91 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that his independent claims, as currently presented, are allowable over the references, and these dependent claims are therefore deemed patentable as well.

V. Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding rejections, and allowance of all remaining claims at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

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Appl. Serial Nbr. 09/685,715  
Replacement Sheet

FIG. 6

